**PATENT** 

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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ZIRCONIUM ALLOY FOR SURGICAL IMPLANTS AND A SUITABLE

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**PROCESS** 

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail to Addressee" Mailing Label No. EV261768653 US, addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

On: December 31, 2003

Signed: K.J. Goodhand/ K. J. Sar Man

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The present submission is being made to accompany a continuation application filed concurrently herewith, claiming priority to co-pending application Serial No. 09/445,675 filed September 13, 2000. Prior to calculating the filing fee for this application, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.